hospital, the disease was arrested in only 5 per cent., the value of this remedy, under the use of which the disease appears to have been arrested in 18 per cent. of the cases, must be considered very great.

Different qualities of oil were tried, without exhibiting any marked difference in their remedial effects; but the offensiveness of some of the darker kinds rendered their general use impracticable. The oil now used is straw-coloured, transparent, and free from offensive smell. Patients in general take it without repugnance. The dose, at first, is 1 drachm three times a-day, for an adult; but it is gradually increased, in some few cases, to 1½ oz. for a dose. It is usually administered in camphor-water, any aromatic water, bitter infusions, milk, or any other agreeable fluid. When there is great irritability of stomach, it has been given in mucilage of gum with a few drops of hydrocyanic acid. In cases where there existed great anæmia and debility, and in those where the effect of the oil seemed slight, preparations of quinine and iron, especially the iodide, have been conjoined with advantage. It has appeared advantageous to intermit its use for a few days, when nausea and feverishness, from whatever cause produced, are present. In certain cases, the use of the oil has been continued during the existence of slight hæmoptysis, without producing any injurious results.

Other animal oils (not derived from the liver), and vegetable oils, were tried with a view of ascertaining how far their operation resembled that of cod liver oil. The experiments hitherto made have not shown them to possess the same powers; but they have not been as yet sufficiently often repeated to warrant decided conclusions.

One of the most striking effects of the use of cod liver oil is an increase in the patient's weight; with a view of showing the frequency with which this occurs, the gain or loss of weight was ascertained in 219 cases of consumption treated with the oil.

Taking both stages of the disease, and the sexes collectively, a gain of weight occurred in 70 per cent., a loss of weight in only 21 per cent., and in about 8½ per cent. the weight remained stationary. The amount of the increase varied, being in some patients little more than one or two pounds during several months; whilst, in many, the average increase was from a pound to two pounds weekly, during several weeks. Some very remarkable instances of great increase of weight presented themselves—thus, in one instance, 41 pounds were gained in 16 weeks; in another, 19½ pounds were gained in 28 days, and 10 pounds in the succeeding 10 days; in another case, 29 pounds were added to the patient's weight in 31 days. It must be observed, that an amelioration of the symptoms did not invariably follow an increase of weight, though the exceptions were rare. An aggravation of the symptoms and a diminution of weight were almost invariable coincidences. In a few cases, the symptoms improved, though the weight remained stationary, or even became slightly diminished. In other cases, where the amelioration was still more considerable, and the progress of the disease appeared to have been stayed, relapse occurred, and was followed by a rapid progress to a fatal issue. That such cases do occur requires to be remembered, in order to restrain too sanguine expectations, and to prevent the remedy from falling into the discredit which disappointment, after an unlimited confidence, may induce. On the other hand, without entering into a description of the successive steps of amelioration experienced by patients, it will suffice to say, that many of the cases included in the 18 per cent., in whom the disease is marked arrested, felt themselves as well as they had been before the attack of the disease.

From these facts, no other conclusion can be drawn than that cod liver oil possesses the property of controlling the symptoms of pulmonary consumption, if not of arresting the disease, to a greater extent than any other agent hitherto tried.—*The First Medical Report of the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, by the Physicians of the Institution. London*, 1849.

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27. *On Nux Vomica in Impotence and Spermatorrhœa.* By M. Duclos.—Incomplete impotence is of far more common occurrence than would be supposed, until many patients have been questioned respecting it. Erections are almost always

possible, especially in the morning; but they are soft, incomplete, and insufficient, a certain amount of tension only continuing, and that for a short time. This state may be met with in men even of the strongest make and most robust constitution, in whom the vascular and muscular systems have attained their highest development. In others, in whom these systems and the nervous system are ill-developed, the generative functions are properly exercised; so that the general physical force is no criterion of the special force of these organs. This imperfect condition is as often found in those who have been excessively continent, as in those who have abused the sexual organs; and it is observed just as often in persons whose nervous system is easily excitable as in those in whom its lesser irritability allows of a predominance of the muscular and vascular systems. Self-pollution may occur either by night or by day, the discharge being either a true or a pseudo-spermatorrhœa.

Accident first led the author to the employment of nux vomica in this class of affections; and he has since observed several cases in which its efficacy has proved very great. He divides 75 grains of the alcoholic extract into 100 pills. During 5 days, he gives one every night: then for other 5 days, 1 morning, 2 night; for other 5 days, 2 night and morning; and for other 5 days, 2 morning and 3 at night; and so on until 4 are taken night and morning. He has never found any harm result, although some patients have taken 14 pills per diem. In many cases the stomach is rapidly improved by the medicine, the lost appetite returning. The following liniment, rubbed into the loins and on the inside of the thighs, is a valuable though not an essential auxiliary: ℞.—Træ. nuc. vom.; træ. arnicæ vel melissæ, āā 60 p. tr. lyttæ 15 p. The regimen should be tonic; and the increased appetite demands a larger supply of food. A very moderate use of coitus is advisable.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.*, Oct. 1849; from *Bull. de Thérap.*, tom. xxxvi. pp. 529–33.

28. *Chloroform in Hydrophobia.*—Mr. S. B. Denton records, in the *Provincial Med. and Surg. Journal* (Oct. 31, 1849), a case of hydrophobia in a boy five years of age. "Chloroform was perseveringly administered; but the vapour upon the branches of the olfactory nerve produced such terrific fright, screaming, and convulsions," that Dr. D. was glad to discontinue its use. All the remedies administered were without effect, and the patient died in a convulsive struggle.

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND OPERATIVE SURGERY.

29. *Singular Distortion of the Lower Extremity simulating Dislocation of the Thigh Bone.*—Mr. Warren Finchman narrates the case of a girl, aged 11, who, while getting out of a railway carriage, got her leg between the carriage and platform. On rising, she felt pain in the hip and leg, and after a few minutes became unable to walk. On examination by a surgeon, nothing amiss could be detected, but another, under the suspicion of dislocation, caused her to be sent to King's College Hospital, under the care of Mr. Ferguson. She was a tall, healthy child. On examining the leg, it was found to be an inch and a half longer than the right; the whole limb was turned outwards; there was much flatness over the outside of the hip, and the great trochanter seemed lower and less prominent than the other; there was some fulness on the inner side of the thigh, but the head of the femur could not be felt there, nor were the adductor muscles tense, and there was more motion at the hip than is usual in a case of dislocation. It seemed, however, to present most of the essential features of a case of dislocation of the femur into the foramen ovale. Accordingly, chloroform was given, with a view to its reduction. It was noticed that more convulsion than usual was produced by it, especially of the affected limb. When the patient was fully under its influence, Mr. Ferguson raised the limb, and found that the stiffness at the joint had become quite relaxed, and, on comparing it with the other, that it had in every respect regained its symmetry, and this